COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 4, No. 50 September 14, 1968

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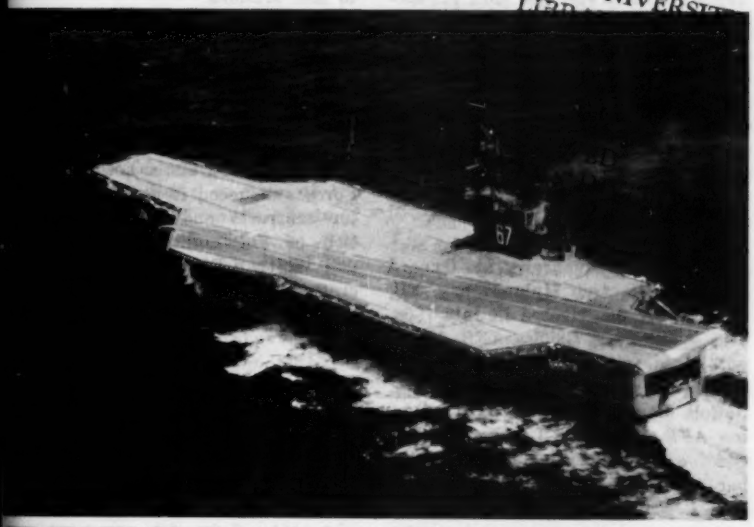

JFK SEA TRIALS—The attack aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy undergoes sea trials off the coast of Norfolk, Va.

Defense Dept. Begins New Program Of Job Assistance to Vietnam Vets

The Defense Department has initiated a new program to assist Vietnam Era servicemen about to be released from the military service, and other Vietnam Era veterans, in obtaining civilian employment in the Federal Government.

Basically, it is an automated system called Vietnam Era Veterans Employment Referral Program (VEVERP) which permits Vietnam Era servicemen and veterans to make a single application for employment and receive civilian employment consideration at locations of their choice throughout the United States.

As explained in Department of Defense Instruction 1404.9, Vietnam Era servicemen and veterans who meet the eligibility requirements may register in this program at any Department of Defense Civilian Personnel Office. (These offices are located at practically all Army, Navy, Air Force and other Defense installations where civilians are employed.)

The civilian personnel office accepting an application under this program transmits it to a centralized referral activity located at the Defense Electronics Supply Center, Dayton, Ohio. This activity places the application in an automated file and the serviceman's or veteran's skills and employment desires are automatically referred bi-weekly to Department of Defense and other Federal activities in the area in which he desires employment.

If a suitable vacancy exists in an area which matches the serviceman's or veteran's skills and employment desires he will be contacted directly.

There are two categories of eligibility for registration in the program.

The first is Category "T", which applies to servicemen and veterans

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Clifford Reviews First Six Months In Defense Office

Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford believes our long-range hopes for peace, and peaceful co-existence, rest in the continued military strength of the United States.

Reviewing his first six months in office at the National Press Club in Washington, D. C., Sept. 5, Secretary Clifford said "it seems even clearer to me now than it did at my confirmation hearing last January that my primary responsibility as Secretary of Defense is to seek to assure the survival of this nation no matter what the strength of any of its enemies."

He recognized that there are those within and without government who are free "to work unqualifiedly for the best of all possible worlds." But he noted "the Secretary of Defense must make certain that we are prepared for the worst."

Secretary Clifford said he found this responsibility "neither uncongenial nor unrewarding. Because, as I see it, an America that is strong militarily is neither a provocateur nor a potential aggressor. Our mili-

(Continued on page 3)

During his speech at the National Press Club Sept. 5, Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford said "I am also proceeding with another decision." Then he announced:

"I have today directed that the Sentinel SBM system be exempt from the expenditure reduction program required by Congress for FY 1969. From a financial standpoint, the option to reduce Sentinel expenditures could have been useful. I have determined, however, that in the light of all current developments our prudent course is to press forward as planned with the Sentinel system."

Air Force Announces Cost-Cutting Actions

Two actions aimed at reducing expenditures in Fiscal 1969 have been announced by the Air Force that will result in a savings of $219 million. This latest action is in compliance with the Revenue and Expenditures Control Act of 1968 which calls for the Defense Department to reduce expenditures in FY69 by up to $3 billion.

Air Force plans call for deactivation of seven F-101 squadrons in the first quarter of this fiscal year instead of later, as previously planned, and the closing of Paine Feld, Wash., as previously announced. The action will result in a reduction of 2,661 military space authorizations, 372 civilian authorizations and will delete 126 aircraft from the active inventory.

The Air Force said the early phaseout will reduce expenditures this fiscal year by $18 million.

Revised production schedules and a stretch-out in the F-111A and FB-111 program will produce additional savings in the current fiscal year. Air Force said the House Appropriations Committee has specified that production of these aircraft should level off at a combined production rate which will be below previously approved rates for each aircraft.

This action is expected to reduce FY69 expenditures by $201 million. It will not delay initial deliveries, but will result in an extended force buildup, the Air Force said.

The F-101 squadrons at Oxnard AFB, Calif., and Malmstrom AFB, Mont., were deactivated in July 1968. The squadron at Griffiss AFB, N. Y., will be deactivated in August. The squadrons at Hamilton AFB, Calif., Suffolk County AFB, N. Y., Charleston AFB, S. C., and Lockborne AFB, Ohio, will be deactivated in September. These actions are a part of the overall realignment of the Aerospace Defense Command forces which began earlier this year. It also involved closing of 20 ADC radar squadrons and the relocation of F-106 aircraft to new stations.

The F-106 squadron at Paine Field, Wash., was moved to Hamilton AFB, Calif. This enabled the Air Force to accelerate the termination of its activities at Paine Field.

In another unrelated action, the Air Force announced it had awarded letter contracts and an initial obligation of $11 million each to Pratt and Whitney Division of United Aircraft Corp., Palm Beach, Fla., and the General Electric Co., Evendale, Ohio.

This begins a competitive, 18-month, initial development phase for a high performance afterburning turbofan engine suitable for use in the Air Force FX Air Superiority fighter and the Navy VFX advanced fighter.

Under terms of the contract each company will develop and test a prototype engine based on the technology level demonstrated by the lift/cruise engine development program.

The 18-month initial engine development program is jointly funded by the Navy and Air Force. Total value of the two contracts is estimated to be $100 million.

Requests for proposals were issued to industry in April 1968 by the Air Force, executive agency for this phase of engine development. General Electric and Pratt and Whitney responded with bids, the Air Force said.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS—Col. Aaron C. Burleson, Special Air Mission Officer, Office of the Vice Chief of Staff, receives the Distinguished Flying Cross from Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell. Col. Burleson was cited for performance as an aircraft commander between February 1 and May 31, 1968.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

Published weekly by Armed Forces Press Service, 1117 N. 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22209, a unified activity of the Office of Information for the Armed Forces, OASD (M&RA). Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFPS).

Defense Chief Reviews First Six Months

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tary security provides instead the best available deterrent to military adventures by those who might otherwise see how far they could go."

He said he had expressed at the confirmation hearing his position relative to the Soviet Union in the field of strategic nuclear weapons.

"I indicated my intention," he said, "to seek diligently to preserve our margin of advantage. The same motivation governed the position of the Defense Department on the efforts of some in Congress to defer or even eliminate the deployment of our Sentinel Anti-ballistic Missile System.

"Recently," he continued, "we were also faced with a somewhat comparable decision in connection with the testing of our newest developments in the nuclear missile field. This series of tests involves the principle of multiple independent re-entry vehicles or MIRV's. We were extremely gratified by the results of the initial tests of our Minuteman III and Poseidon missiles.

"In both these instances," Mr. Clifford continued, "we have proceeded with these new, and admittedly very expensive, weapons developments not with the idea that war is inevitable. Instead we have done so on the basis that a position of substantial strength is essential and is the best position from which we can negotiate agreements that may make the threat of nuclear war increasingly remote."

Discussing NATO, Secretary Clifford said the more than 300,000 troops in western Europe—more than 23 years after the end of World War II —represent a substantial expense for the American people. "But the cost is dwarfed," he said, "when one compares it to the enormous cost of American lives and treasure expended in a general war or to the consequences if America were to be isolated in a hostile world.

"We should not, in my view, be led by NATO's success into the delusion that a strong United States military contribution to NATO is no longer necessary. Some had thought and there had been some signs that justified such thinking, that today's Soviet Union was a far better neighbor than the Soviet Union of the late 1940's."

Continuing, Secretary Clifford said: "The events of the past couple of weeks, I submit, have clearly demonstrated that a significant American military presence in western Europe is still needed. At the same time, our NATO allies surely must review these events from the standpoint of the effect upon our common security.

"The developments of these last few days confirm the fact that, when and if we negotiate, safety and success demand that we negotiate from strength."

He said that the events that have occurred, and the decisions that he has faced during the first six months in office "thus reinforce my fundamental belief that our long-range hopes for peace, and for peaceful coexistence, rest in the continued military strength of the United States."

FINAL SALUTE—Maj. Gen. Carroll W. McColpin renders a final salute as a 16-plane fly-by passes over the Hamilton AFB, Calif., flightline during his retirement ceremonies Aug. 30. Gen. McColpin retired after more than 28 years' active duty. Maj. Gen. Robert W. Burns succeeded Gen. McColpin as commander of ADC's Fourth Air Force.

Secretary Clifford told his audience that the past months have also seen developments "that provide a basis for hope that we can find a solution to our most vexing short-range problem—peace in Vietnam.

"Contrasting where we were on March 1st with where we are today," there are three important elements in this more hopeful prospect," he said.

1—"First and most important was President Johnson's statesmanlike initiative in his March 31st speech, in which he courageously took the first step toward peace by limiting the bombing of North Vietnam to the infiltration routes in the Panhandle. This action led to the Paris peace talks . . . As Hanoi faces up to the futility of further attempts to take over the South by force, we may see some movement that will bring peace closer."

2—"The second element in the new look since March was the decision that U.S. troop strength in Vietnam could be limited to 549,500. We have assured General (Creighton W.) Abrams (Commander U.S. MACV and Commanding General U.S. Army, Vietnam), and our Commanders in the field told me personally during my July trip to Vietnam, that this strength, together with the forces of the South Vietnamese and our allies, is sufficient to withstand and defeat any offensive that the enemy can mount . . ."

3—"The third and final element in the changed complexion in South Vietnam is the progressive development of our policy to prepare the armed forces of Vietnam to take over a greater share of the burden of the continuing battle if peaceful settlement continues to prove elusive . . ."

Mr. Clifford said "together, these three developments have put us in a far stronger position to bring our Vietnamese involvement to a satisfactory conclusion."

International Law for a New Frontier

THE DEEP OCEAN FLOOR

World interest in one of man's last frontiers—the deep ocean floor—is increasing. President Johnson has proposed an International Decade of Ocean Exploration be launched in 1970. A United Nations committee is also studying peaceful uses of the seabed.

Leonard C. Meeker, U.S. representative to this committee, recently presented a U.S. statement of principles concerning international cooperation in development of the ocean floor and prevention of the emplacement on the seabed of weapons of mass destruction.

Here are excerpts from Mr. Meeker's statement of principles.

During the twentieth century, new frontiers in the geographical sense have been diminishing. Most of the land surface of the earth has been explored. A decade ago man commenced his exploration of space beyond this planet. Today, we are moving deeper and farther into the oceans.

Efforts to explore and exploit the resources of the ocean floor, however, have but a limited past history. Some believe that on the bottom of the ocean lies treasure that man will soon be able to pluck up. Others are dubious about the extractive potential of the ocean floor and also doubt that our technology will prove a match for the inhospitable ocean floor environment for many years to come.

We will not know the answer to these questions until much greater energies have been devoted to the development of the ocean frontier.

There are other issues for which more experience is required to evaluate with wisdom. For example: how the community of nations should cooperate to secure the benefits of the new environment; what legal rules should be applied to the exploration and exploitation of the ocean floor; what steps should be taken to assure that this process unfolds in an orderly and expeditious manner.

It seems to us, as we look ahead, that it could be constructive at some relatively early stage in the work of lawmaking for the General Assembly to consider the adoption of certain principles, which would then serve as a guide to states in the conduct of their activities and also as general lines of direction to be observed in the working out of more detailed and internationally agreed arrangements that might be required.

U.N. Statement of Principles

The following are some of the subjects that we think might appropriately be treated in a U.N. statement of principles for the deep ocean floor:

The principle of nondiscrimination should be established in such a way as to recognize that the exploration and use of the deep ocean floor are open to all states and their nationals without discrimination and in accordance with international law.

A corollary of this would be to rule out any claims to the exercise of sovereignty or sovereign rights over any part of the deep ocean floor.

Paralleling a precedent established earlier in the space field, the statement of principles might prescribe that states and their nationals shall conduct their activities on the deep ocean floor in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the U.N., in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation, scientific knowledge and economic development.

We believe there should be a principle favoring international cooperation in scientific investigation of the deep ocean floor. This should encourage timely dissemination of plans for and results from national scientific programs, and should also encourage cooperative scientific activities by the personnel of different states.

Freedom of the Seas

Again following a precedent laid down earlier in the U.N. Declaration of Legal Principles for Space, and reflected as well in the Geneva Convention of 1958 on the High Seas, we believe there should be an appropriate statement calling for respect and reasonable regard for the interests of others in exploration and use of the deep ocean floor.

This statement should cover avoidance of unjustifiable interference with the exercise of the freedoms of the high seas by other states and their nationals, interference with conservation of the living resources of the seas, and

interference with fundamental scientific research looking toward publication of findings.

There should be a call for appropriate safeguards to minimize pollution of the seas and disturbance of the existing biological, chemical and physical processes and balances.

Such a principle, we believe, should also call for appropriate consultation in the event of concern that a particular marine activity or experiment could harmfully interfere with the activities of another state or its nationals. in exploration and use of the deep ocean floor.

Recognizing the ancient maritime practice of mutual assistance, which was drawn upon as well in the formulation of the Outer Space Principles, we believe there should be a statement of obligation to render all possible assistance in the event of accident, distress or emergencies arising out of activities in the deep ocean floor.

Finally, there might appropriately be included in a statement of principles some guidelines as to the treatment of installations, equipment or other property taken to the deep ocean floor in connection with activities there.

Elements such as those I have indicated could, in our view, be effectively incorporated in a statement of principles at a level of generality permitting wide agreement. There are other areas of subject matter that will require additional procedure and treatment in order to become effective. One of these is the question of what constitutes the deep ocean floor.

Taking into account the Geneva Convention of 1958 on the Continental Shelf, there should be established, as soon as practicable, an internationally agreed precise boundary as to what constitutes the deep ocean floor.

Any statement of principles on this matter should specify that exploration of the natural resources of the ocean floor occurring prior to establishment of the boundary shall be understood not to prejudice its location, regardless of whether the coastal state considers the exploration to have occurred on its "continental shelf." We do not believe it necessary to delineate this boundary before agreement can be reached on general principles applicable to the deep ocean floor.

We believe that a statement of principles could appropriately state that there should be established as soon as practicable internationally agreed arrangements governing the exploitation of those resources. Such arrangements should reflect the elements set forth in a statement of principles of the sort I have sketched, and these arrangements should also include provisions for the following:

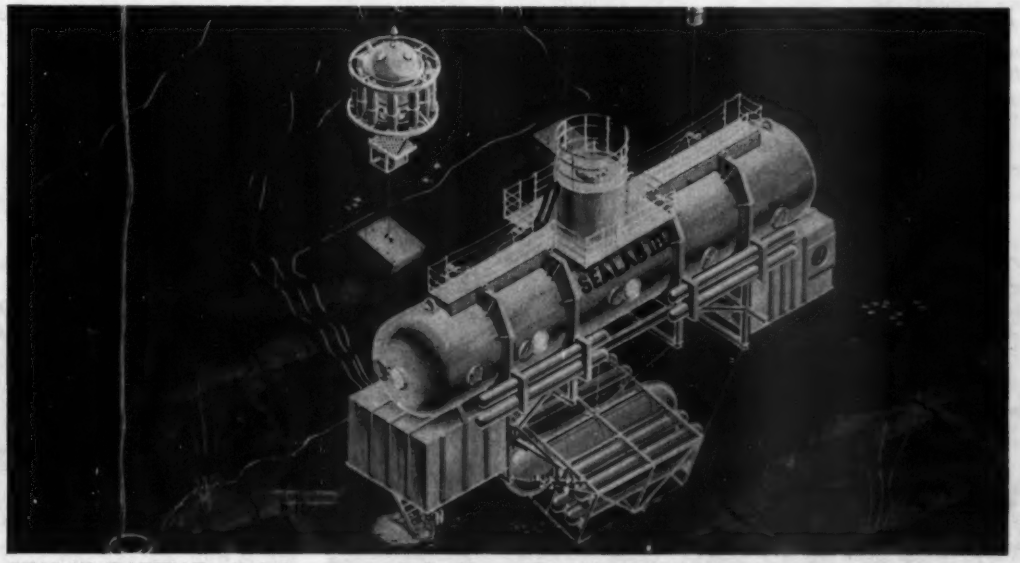
—The orderly development of resources of the deep ocean floor in a manner reflecting the interest of the world community in the development of these resources;

—Conditions conducive to the making of investments necessary for the exploration and exploitation of resources of the deep ocean floor;

—Dedication as feasible and practicable of a portion of the value of the resources recovered from the deep ocean floor to world or regional community purposes; and

—Accommodation among the commercial and other uses of the deep ocean floor and marine environment.

We are confident that from our discussions here will proceed later the necessary elaboration of legal rules and international agreements. Let us remember that we are at the beginning, not the end, of a process of large scope and complexity.



SEALAB HABITAT—Artist's concept of the Navy SEALAB III habitat, to be used in the forthcoming seafloor experiments off San Clemente Island (See SEALAB story, page 6). Representatives of the 35 countries who are members of the U.N. Ocean Floor Committee have been invited to visit the experiment for first-hand observation.

LBJ Amends Flight Pay Order to Include Spacecraft

President Johnson has signed an Executive Order to insure that military personnel who perform flights in spacecraft will be entitled to "flight pay."

The Order, signed Aug. 29, insures incentive pay for hazardous duty on the same basis as those who perform flights in, and participate in operations of, conventional aircraft.

The Order further insures that personnel injured in an "aviation accident" will be entitled to incentive pay for a period of three months without completing the performance requirements. The Executive Order follows:

"By virtue of the authority vested in me by section 301 (a) and (f) of title 37, United States Code, and as President of the United States and Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States, section 101 of Executive Order No. 11157 of June 22, 1964, is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 101. For the purposes of these regulations:

(a) The term 'aerial flight' shall be construed to mean flight in an aircraft, glider, or spacecraft; and a flight shall be deemed to begin when the aircraft, glider, or spacecraft takes off from rest at any point of support located on the surface of the earth and to terminate when it next comes to a complete stop at a point of support located on the surface of the earth.

(b) The term 'aviation accident' shall be construed to mean an accident in which a member who is required to participate frequently and regularly in aerial flight is injured or otherwise incapacitated as the result, as attested by the appropriate medical authority of the uniformed service concerned, of (1) jumping from, being thrown from, or being struck by, an aircraft, glider, or spacecraft, or any part or auxiliary thereof, or (2) participation in any duly authorized aerial flight or other aircraft, glider, or spacecraft operations."

SEALAB III Begins in October

The Navy's forthcoming SEALAB III experiment, to be held off San Clemente Island beginning in October, will encompass activities ranging from assembly of a house on the ocean floor to studies of how light attracts fish.

All activities will be part of a comprehensive ocean floor program to be undertaken by five teams of Navy and civilian aquanauts, who will live and work at a depth of 600 feet for successive 12-day periods during the 60-day experiment.

The program will consist of tasks in six general areas: oceanography, engineering, construction, salvage, biology and human performance.

Within the oceanography area, tasks will be conducted in physical and biological oceanography, use of marine mammals, geology and bioacoustics. Data obtained will aid in development of improved capabilities for military, economic and other uses of the depths.

The construction experiment will help determine the ability of divers to assemble structures on the ocean floor. Four aquanauts are scheduled to assemble and repair a storage station near the seafloor habitat. The completed station will be 10 feet high and have a 10-foot diameter.

In the salvage area, four salvage lift systems will be tried, four improved diver tools will be evaluated and improved methods of locating objects on the ocean floor will be tested.

During other saturation diving experiments, aquanauts have developed infections and microorganisms have been transferred among personnel. This fact has led to a desire to determine the susceptibility or resistance to infection of man in the seafloor environment. During the experiment cardiac performance and body temperatures of aquanauts will be studied at different depths, water temperatures and physical and mental stress conditions, both in the water and in the seafloor habitat.

An investigation will be made of body heat loss due to the helium-oxygen atmosphere of the habitat. The effectiveness of protective thermal equipment when the aquanaut is in the water will also be tested.

In the area of human performance, experiments relating to speech and manual dexterity will be directed towards determining whether there is any performance loss at various depths.

THE GENERAL PICTURE—Upon arriving at New River Air Facility, N.C., from Washington, Gen. Leonard F. Chapman Jr., (center) Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Lt. Gen. Richard G. Weede, (right) CG, FMF Atlantic, are met by Maj. Gen. J. O. Butcher (left) CG, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, and Maj. Gen. E. B. Wheeler, CG, 2d Marine Division.

DOD Begins New Job Aid Program

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who are eligible for Transitional Civil Service Appointments authorized by Executive Order 11397. This type of appointment applies only to positions at GS-5 level or equivalent (commencing salary $5,732.00 per year or about $2.75 per hour), and below.

To be eligible for Category "T" under the VEVERP program a serviceman or veteran must meet all of the following requirements:

1—He has been or will be discharged under honorable conditions after performing active military duty (other than active duty for training) (a) during a war; (b) in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized; (c) during the period from April 28, 1952 to July 1, 1955; (d) for a period of more than 180 consecutive days after January 31, 1955, exclusive of active duty for training in the National Guard or as a reserve, or (e) at any time, if he has a service connected disability.

2—Some or all of his active military duty has been after Aug. 5, 1964 (that is, during the Vietnam Era).

3—He has completed less than one year of education beyond graduation from high school, or equivalent.

4—He agrees in writing that he will pursue an approved program of education or training during his employment.

5—He must register in VEVERP within ten months from his date of separation from the military service (or release from hospitalization or treatment immediately following separation from the military service). If he was released from the military service prior to Feb. 8, 1968, he must register prior to Dec. 8, 1968. If he is still on active military duty he may register within two months of his release under honorable conditions.

The second category, "S", is applicable to servicemen about to be honorably released from the military service and veterans recently released who have specialized skills and who can qualify for shortage category positions in Department of Defense installations. To be eligible for registration in Category "S" in VEVERP the serviceman or veteran must register within a two-month period prior to or following release from the military service. He must also qualify under applicable civil service qualification standards for one or more positions at designated locations listed on the VEVERP Shortage Category Position List.

The Defense Department emphasized that servicemen and veterans should be referred to the Civilian Personnel Office only if they are definitely interested in civilian employment consideration through the referral process of VEVERP and appear to meet the minimum eligibility requirements.

Each Category "T" registrant will remain in the system until employed or for one year following separation from the armed forces (or release from hospitalization or treatment immediately following separation from the armed forces), whichever occurs first, except that veterans released from military service prior to Feb. 8, 1968, may continue in the system until Feb. 8, 1969.

Each Category "S" registrant will remain in the system until employed or one year from date of separation from military service, whichever occurs first.

War Orphans Payments Exempt for Tax Purposes

The Veterans Administration has good news for the taxpaying parents and guardians of an estimated 42,000 dependents going to school under the War Orphans Educational Assistance Act.

Payments to "war orphans" are now regarded as scholarships and are not to be counted for income tax purposes in determining whether the dependent received more than half of his support from the taxpayer.

Under the law, "war orphans" (children of veterans who died or are permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service) are entitled to monthly benefits of $130 for full-

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ANNIVERSARY REVIEW—Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Herren, USA (Ret.) and Lt. Gen. Jonathan O. Seaman salute the colors during a ceremony celebrating the First U.S. Army's 50th Anniversary. Gen. Herren commanded First Army from December 1954 to July 1957. Gen. Seaman is the present commander.

DOD Broadens Hostile Fire Pay Policy

All members of a unit actually involved or participating in an enemy action outside a designated hostile fire area are now eligible for special pay under broadened Department of Defense policy.

Previously, only those members wounded or killed by hostile fire outside a designated area were eligible for the special pay.

Newly-revised Defense Department Directive 1340.6 clarifies DOD's position in paragraph III. B.5. It states:

If not on duty in a designated hostile fire area the participant in the hostile encounter must (a) be on active duty or on board the same vessel or aircraft which was the subject of hostile fire or (b) in the case of land forces must be assigned to the same military unit, must have been performing duty with the unit at the time of the hostile action and meet other existing criteria of the Directive.

The second newly-added paragraph (III. D. 5.) states that a member whose eligibility is based on the conditions stated above, will be paid this special pay for the entire month during which the hostile action occurred.

In the case of the USS Pueblo, for example, under the existing rules only those members killed or wounded by the enemy action could be awarded this special pay. Under the revised regulations all members of the crew would have been entitled to receive this pay. (There is now before the Congress legislation that would award hostile fire pay to all members of the Pueblo crew retroactive to date of capture.)

Another example, would be hostile action involving aircraft flying outside a designated hostile fire area. Before revision of the Directive only those members aboard who were wounded or killed were eligible for this special pay.

Generally, special pay for duty subject to hostile fire will be paid to members of the uniformed services who:

1—Are entitled to basic pay.

2—Are subject to hostile fire or the explosion of hostile mines.

3—Are serving in an area where they are in imminent danger of being exposed to hostile fire or the explosion of hostile mines and in which, while serving, other members are subject to such hazards.

Entitlement to special pay will accrue to a member of a uniformed service who is entitled to basic pay and who is:

1—Killed by hostile fire, explosion of a hostile mine, or any other hostile action.

2—Wounded or injured by hostile fire, explosion of a hostile mine, or any other hostile action.

3—An actual participant in a land, sea, air or combined operations during which a member is killed or wounded as a result of hostile fire, explosion of a hostile mine, or any other hostile action. The participant in the hostile action must be assigned to the same vessel, aircraft or military unit which sustains wounding or death of a member.

A member eligible for special pay will be paid at the rate of $65 per month for any calendar month in which he is entitled to basic pay for the entire month, subject to the conditions of DOD Directive 1340.6.

Orphans Payments

(Continued from Page 7)

time enrollment, smaller amounts for part time.

According to the VA, a recent Internal Revenue Service ruling calling such payments "scholarships" reverses an earlier finding. Previously these educational allowances were regarded as being contributed by the student when determining who furnished more than half of the student's support for income tax purposes.

The new ruling concludes that Congress intended that such payments be gratuitous in nature and therefore they are scholarships, the VA said.

Since the ruling is retroactive, the VA advises parents and guardians to apply to their local district ISR director for the best method of filing for a refund.

COAST GUARD ARRIVES—Lt. Gen. Robert A. Breitweiser, commander in chief, Alaska, (right) greets Adm. Willard J. Smith, commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, (center) upon his arrival at Elmendorf AFB. At left is RAdm. Robert E. Hammond, commander, 17th Coast Guard District, headquartered in Juneau. Adm. Smith visited Elmendorf during a week-long tour of Alaska.

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Price 5 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: $2.50 per year; $3.25 additional for foreign mailing.

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